



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the  
NH Department of Environmental Services

March 2009

*The Municipal EcoLink*, is a monthly e-bulletin designed to inform you of the latest environmental ideas, trends, grants, rules and more from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES). We respectfully request that the following is read into the minutes of your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well.

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### Diesel Emission Reduction Act a Part of the Stimulus Package

Through the federal stimulus bill the DES Air Resources Division is receiving an estimated \$1.73 million for projects and initiatives to reduce on- and off-road diesel engine emissions in the state. DES seeks project proposals **by March 13, 2009** from operators of diesel equipment in the state. Eligible projects include retrofit of on-road and non-road diesel equipment with idling reduction and particulate control retrofit equipment, re-powering or upgrading existing diesel engines to more stringent emission standards, use of cleaner fuels, or replacement of existing diesel equipment with equipment meeting more stringent emission standards. For information, please contact Tom Fargo at (603) 271-1378 or go to [http://des.nh.gov/recovery/dera\\_funding.htm](http://des.nh.gov/recovery/dera_funding.htm).

### Be Alert to Carbon Monoxide Poisonings

Carbon monoxide (CO) is one of the leading causes of unintentional poisoning deaths in the U.S. While winter is the most common season in which CO poisonings occur, exposure to fuel-burning appliances and vehicles in poorly ventilated areas can occur at any time. This winter's massive power outages highlighted the dangers of CO as a result of improperly used portable generators. As warmer weather approaches, emergency responders and health officials should be alert to these possible scenarios to help prevent CO poisonings: portable generators used to pump a flooded basement; gas or charcoal grill used inside an enclosed area; gas-powered tools such as lawn mowers or chain saws run in a home, garage or under a tarp; gas-fueled lanterns used inside a small, sealed area like a tent, trailer or boat cabin. For more info, please call the Northern New England Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 or go to [www.nnepc.org](http://www.nnepc.org).

### Water Resources Plan Presented Statewide

DES will hold a series of evening public meetings to discuss work on a state water resources plan. The meetings consist of a one-hour presentation regarding a recently completed report detailing the state's water resources challenges, followed by discussion. DES is conducting the meetings, with the assistance of various partner organizations and stakeholders, to inform and build public involvement in the development a state water resources plan by the legislature's Water Resources Committee. The full schedule can be viewed at <http://des.nh.gov/media/pr/2009/090306.htm>.

### Ground Water Rule Disinfection Option

The new Ground Water Rule requires public groundwater systems that disinfect to undertake certain initial activities related to microbial water quality of their wells. System owners should have chosen a sampling option and notified DES by March 1. For rule information, contact Selina J. Makofsky at (603) 271-4109; to discuss 4-log treatment, its definition and how to meet it, contact Bob Mann at (603) 271- 2953. Information is also available at [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov) under the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau pages.

### Bike-Walk to Work Day now part of Green Commute Week, May 11-15

The 53rd national Bike-Walk to Work Day will be celebrated in May. DES and DOT have again partnered with organizers to promote the annual event in New Hampshire. This year, alternative transportation, including ride sharing, van pools, bus and rail transit options, will be promoted along with bicycling and walking as means of commuting to any destination normally accessed by car. The goal is to minimize the number of single-occupant cars on the road. For a list of events and activities in New Hampshire for the week, please visit [www.bwanh.org](http://www.bwanh.org). For more information, contact Joan Clinton, NH Rideshare coordinator, at 271-4043 or [JClinton@dot.state.nh.us](mailto:JClinton@dot.state.nh.us).

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